

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mandy Seuffert on April 8, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification, on page 1, in line 3, inserted --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

In the specification, on page 1, in line 11, before "construction is" deleted "Said" and replaced with --The--.

In the specification, on page 1, in line 31, before "joint can" deleted "Said" and replaced with --The--.

In the specification, on page 2, in line 17, before "joint allow" deleted "Said" and replaced with --The--.

In the specification, on page 2, in line 20, before "engineering" deleted "Said" and replaced with --The--.

In the specification, on page 2, in line 21, before "solution is" deleted "said" and replaced with --the--.

In the specification, on page 2, in line 23, before "joint is" deleted "said" and replaced with --the--.

In the specification, on page 2, in line 25, deleted "Summary of the invention" and replaced with --BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

In the specification, on page 3, in line 24, deleted "Brief description of the drawings" and replaced with --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

In the specification, on page 4, in line 1, after "the invention" deleted "as claimed in claim 3".

In the specification, on page 4, in line 4, after "the invention" deleted "as claimed in claim 2".

In the specification, on page 4, in line 9, deleted "Preferred embodiment" and replaced with --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

In claim 1, in line 1, after "A joint" deleted "capable of joining flat rigid parts, comprising" and replaced with --joining flat rigid parts, the joint comprising--.

In claim 1, in line 4, after "bulbous slots" inserted --located between and--.

In claim 1, in line 5, after "corresponding to the" deleted "projections" and replace with --projection--.

In claim 1, in line 7, before "edges of" inserted --surfaces of--.

In claim 1, in line 8, before "conical surfaces , wherein" deleted "are embodied in the form of" and replaced with --of each part are embodied in the form of adjacent--.

In claim 1, in line 9, before "edges and" deleted "projections" and replaced with

--projection--.

In claim 1, in lines 11-12, after "said upper" deleted "piece and said lower piece" and replaced with --part and said lower part--.

In claim 1, in line 12, after "upper and lower" deleted "piece" and replaced with --part--.

In claim 1, in line 13, after "of the lower" deleted "piece" and replaced with --part--.

In claim 1, in line 14, after "slots of the upper" deleted "piece, placing the necks of the upper piece" and replaced with --part, placing the projection necks of the upper part--.

In claim 1, in line 15, after "grooves of the lower" deleted "piece" and replaced with --part--.

In claim 1, in lines 15-16, after "rotating said upper" deleted "piece relative to said lower pieces" and replaced with --part relative to said lower part--.

In claim 1, in line 16, after "of the breadths" inserted --of the lower part--.

In claim 1, in line 16, after "of the slots" inserted --of the upper part--.

In claim 2, in line 2, after "surfaces of the" deleted "projections edges and of the slots" and replaced with --projection edges and of the slot--.

In claim 4, in line 1, after "A joint" deleted "capable of".

In claim 4, in line 3, after "first mating" deleted "sides and having a" and replaced with --side and each projection having a first--.

In claim 4, in line 5, after "mating side and" deleted "having a" and replaced with

--each projection having a second--.

In claim 4, in line 7, after "complementary joggles" inserted -- , which are embodied in the form of bulbous slots located between and--.

In claim 4, in line 9, after "corresponding to the" deleted "projections necks" and replace with --projection necks, wherein the surfaces of the edges of the projections and the surfaces of the bottoms of the slots of each part each comprise conical surfaces having a peak, and wherein said peaks of the projection edges and the slots are arranged on opposite sides with respect to a plane of each part--.

In claim 4, in line 10, after "said upper" deleted "piece and said lower piece" and replaced with --part and said lower part--.

In claim 4, in line 11, after "upper and lower" deleted "piece" and replaced with --part--.

In claim 4, in line 12, after "of the lower" deleted "piece" and replaced with --part--.

In claim 4, in line 12, after "of the upper" deleted "piece" and replaced with --part--.

In claim 4, in line 13, before "into the mating" deleted "piece" and replaced with --part--.

In claim 4, in line 13, after "grooves of the lower" deleted "piece" and replaced with --part--.

In claim 4, in line 13, after "rotating said upper" deleted "piece" and replaced with --part--.

In claim 4, in line 14, after "said lower" deleted "pieces" and replaced with --part--.

In claim 4, in line 14, after "of the breadths" inserted --of the lower part--.

In claim 4, in line 15, after "slots" inserted --of the upper part--.

Canceled claims 5 and 6.

In claim 7, in line 1, after "The joint" deleted "for flat parts of Claim 6" and replaced with --of Claim 4--.

In claim 7, in line 2, before "conical surfaces" deleted "guiding lines of the".

In claim 9, in line 1, after "The joint" deleted "for flat parts".

In claim 9, in line 2, before "capable of working" inserted --by the joined parts--.

In claim 9, in line 3, before "plate" deleted "whole" and replaced with --one-piece--.

In claim 10, in line 1, after "The joint" deleted "for flat parts".

In claim 11, in line 1, after "The joint" deleted "for flat parts".

In claim 11, in line 3, after "of the breadths" deleted "to meet" and replaced with --away from--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 1 and 4, Hunting Engineering (GB 2 221 273) discloses the claimed joint with the exception of wherein surfaces of edges of the projections and surfaces of

the bottoms of the slots of each part are embodied in the form of adjacent conical surfaces, wherein the peaks of the conical surfaces of the projection edges and of the slots of each part are arranged on opposite sides with respect to a plane of each respective part, wherein a lower and upper part are joined by overlapping the upper part and the lower part in such a way that the respective planes of the upper and lower parts are positioned at an angle that is close to a ring angle, aligning bulbous breadths of the lower part with bulbous slots of the upper part, placing the projection necks of the upper part in the mating grooves of the lower part, respectively, and rotating the upper part relative to the lower part until conical surface of the breaths of the lower part meet the conical surfaces of the slots of the upper part, wherein both parts are located in the same plane.

There is no teaching or suggestion, absent the applicant's own disclosure, for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the joint disclosed by Hunting Engineering to have the above mentioned elemental features. Furthermore, such modifications would yield unexpected and unpredictable results.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL P. FERGUSON whose telephone number is (571)272-7081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30am-3:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MPF
04/09/08

/Michael P. Ferguson/
Examiner, Art Unit 3679